



The Navy and VHA Update on DoD/VA Sharing

Tamara Rollins

**BUMED, DoD/VA Program
Manager**

Laura Kelly

VHA VISN 21 VA/DoD Liaison

What is Covered

- Authority to Share
- Why We Share
- What We Share
- How We Get There
- Relationship Building
- Barriers to Sharing
- Review Process

DoD/VA Sharing: Authority

- National Defense Authorization Act 2003

The two Secretaries shall: Develop a joint strategic vision statement and a joint strategic plan to shape, focus, and prioritize the coordination and sharing efforts among the appropriate elements of the two Departments.

DoD/VA Sharing: Legislation

- Program Authority:
 - Public Law 97-174
 - Public Law 107-314
 - Title 38, Section 8111
 - Title 10, Section 1104
 - DoD Instruction 6010.23
 - Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Resource Sharing Program
 - VHA Handbook 1660.4 - VA-DOD Health Care Resources Sharing

Other Interested Parties....

Service Surgeons
General, Health
Affairs, VA,
OMB, Congress,
and the
President

- Logistics
- Contingency Response
- Deployment Health
- Evidence-Based Guidelines
- Financial Management
- GME/Med Ed & Training
- IM/IT
- Joint Facility Utilization and Resource Sharing
- Mental Health
- Patient Safety
- Pharmacy
- BRAC Impact

Other Government Activities and TRICARE

- DoD Instruction 4000.19, Interservice and Intergovernmental Support is NOT intended to be used.
- VA-DOD direct sharing agreements and VA-TRICARE activities have evolved into distinct activities.

Why We Share

- Program Purpose:
 - Promote and develop collaborative partnerships that enhance the cost-effective use of Federal healthcare resources, maximize the shared use of resources, and benefit both VA and DoD beneficiaries.
 - Provide leadership with an alternative for mission success to augment the standard in-house and private sector care options.

How We Share

- DoD and VA medical facilities may enter into sharing agreements covering any healthcare-related activity.
- Agreements may be local, regional, or national.
- Sharing agreements cannot negatively impact your ability to take care of your beneficiaries... Mission requirements must still be met.
- IM/IT agreements resulting in changes to Enterprise systems must be approved at the office responsible for that system
- The agreement is the only legal document required for the formalization and implementation of DoD/VA Resources Sharing Agreements

How to Establish a DoD/VA Sharing Agreement

- First make contact, then have a meeting and talk to each other about what is going on in your area of responsibility.
- Identify potential areas of collaboration:
 - Would a collaborative expansion within a specialty clinic work?
 - Do your specialists require a more complex caseload?
 - Examine your purchased care reports...would the VA or DoD be cheaper?
 - Do either of you need additional space due to a renovation project?
 - Involve the professional staff in identifying opportunities.

Getting There

- Address the issues that come with sharing
 - Dual eligibility, base access, joint commission, credentialing
- Identify workload, cost, and resource requirements.
 - Reimbursement rates must be consistent with VA/DoD policy.
 - Complete the required analyses before a final decision is made.
 - Make sure the agreement is mutually beneficial for both parties.

Leadership Responsibilities

- Negotiate reasonable sharing agreements that are beneficial to all entities.
- Enforce the approved reimbursement guidance.
- Ensure actions taken are in accordance with appropriate regulations, directives, etc.
- Ensure VA/DoD sharing activities are captured in the strategic and business planning processes.
- Share your ideas with your local Market neighbors.

Sending the Agreement for Approval (Navy)

- Completed Agreements are forwarded by MTF Commanders to their BUMED Regional Commands (Navy Medicine East, West, National Capital Region). The agreements are reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Command and forwarded to BUMED HQ for approval.
- Approval authority for all DoD/VA sharing agreements resides with BUMED (M3/5 and M8).
- Reimbursement guidance is provided by the DoD/VA Health Executive Council and Financial Management Work Group.
- VHA maintains the Joint VA/DoD Sharing Agreement Database.
- * All agreements contain points of contact at the MTF, VA facility and Regional Command.

Sending the Agreement for Approval (VISN)

- Completed Agreements are forwarded by VA Medical Center Director to their VISN. The agreements are reviewed and forwarded by the VISN to the VA Sharing Office for approval.*
- Reimbursement guidance is provided by the DoD/VA Health Executive Council and Financial Management Work Group.
- VHA maintains the Joint VA/DoD Sharing Agreement Database.
- VISNs will also maintain listings of agreements

* Check with your VISN

Service-Specific Requirements

	Army	Navy	Air Force	VHA
Approval Authority	RMC w/notification of action to MEDCOM and OTSG	BUMED w/processing through regional commands	AF/SG3 (Local for renewals) w/processing through AFMSA/SG3S	VHA w/processing through VISN
Business Case/Cost Analyses	X	X	X	X (RM)
POC Information	X	X	X	X
Other Requirements			Currency and Readiness Case Analyses	

Success of Sharing is Dependent Upon:

- **COMMUNICATION**
- Leadership support
- Trust and shared risk
- Creatively identifying sharing opportunities
 - Start small and start early
- Mutually beneficial relationships
- Infrastructures that support sharing
- Maximizing resources

So Why Is This Important?

- It is highly probable you will be involved at some level with VA/DoD Sharing:
 - Treating veterans and DoD beneficiaries in both healthcare systems
 - Representing your unit in negotiating a sharing agreement or joint incentive fund
 - Purchasing supplies and equipment from joint VA/DoD contracts
 - Assisting with the transition of injured or ill warriors from active duty status to veteran status
 - Identifying and treating PTSD patients
 - Providing input to stakeholders' audits and surveys

VA/DoD Information Sources

AMEDD: <http://vadodrs.amedd.army.mil>

Navy: <http://www.tricare.mil/DVPCO>

AF: <https://kx.afms.mil/dodvasharing>

VA: <http://vaww.dodcoordination.va.gov/>